



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

January 10, 2006

S. 2013 **United States-Russia Polar Bear Conservation** **and Management Act of 2005**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on November 17, 2005*

SUMMARY

S. 2013 would direct the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to implement the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population, signed on October 16, 2002. For this purpose, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$4 million for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010. S. 2013 also would establish criminal fines and civil penalties to be imposed on anyone who violates prohibitions under the bill against transactions involving polar bears or their organs.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that carrying out S. 2013 would cost \$1 million in fiscal year 2006 and \$16 million over the 2006-2010 period. Enacting the bill would result in additional revenues (and associated direct spending) from civil and criminal fines as well as new direct spending, but we estimate that such amounts would be minimal.

Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that are necessary for the ratification or implementation of international treaty obligations. CBO has determined that, because S. 2013 would implement the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Treaty, it falls within that exclusion. CBO has thus not reviewed the bill for the presence of mandates.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2013 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	4	4	4	4	4
Estimated Outlays	1	3	4	4	4

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2013 will be enacted during fiscal year 2006 and that the amounts authorized will be appropriated for each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs of the USFWS.

S. 2013 contains fines and product-forfeiture provisions that are similar to those imposed under the Lacey Act, which prohibits sales, imports, and other transactions involving endangered species. Enacting the bill could thus affect revenues from civil and criminal fines. CBO estimates, however, that any increase in revenues would be less than \$500,000 annually. Moreover, such changes would be offset by increases in direct spending from the Crime Victims Fund (where criminal fines are deposited) or the resource management account of the USFWS (where civil fines are deposited and used for rewards to informers and other program costs).

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

Section 4 of UMRA excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that are necessary for the ratification or implementation of international treaty obligations. CBO has determined that because S. 2013 would implement the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Treaty, it falls within that exclusion. CBO has thus not reviewed the bill for the presence of mandates.

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